

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, thank you. This bill deals with the Petroleum Testing Act, actually it's called Petroleum Products Act, but it was a testing procedure that we had until this last year. It was repealed last session and some problems have resulted. The bill was brought back with the same language as last year. The committee amendments basically deal with the concerns of the Ag Department with the program. They redefine some terms and, also, put a sunset into the program of December 31, 1985 so that the testing program would be only in effect for a couple years until a new and improved program could be worked out by the Ag Department. That's really the essence of the committee amendments, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kahle, do you wish to make a comment?

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President and members, Senator Wesely is correct in stating that last year we did away with the testing and since then, I think we've had second thoughts about it, especially with the number of fuel mixtures that we have and especially alcohol blends with ethanol and methanol which are two different substances and do two different things to gasoline; one for the positive and one for the negative. And we've had trouble with our gasohol program because of the methanol being used which is a wood alcohol product, I understand and ethanol, of course, is a grain product. So, and on top of that, of course, we have a five cent reduction in the price of fuel containing alcohol or ethanol and I guess we want to be sure that there's that much ethanol getting into it. And also, many of the other oil companies now are using what they call super unleaded which unless it's tested, you really don't know whether it's ten percent of ethanol in there or not. So I think it's a very good idea to, to again start testing these products to make sure that we're not refunding money to someone who is not putting ten percent of the alcohol back into the fuel. That's just one part of the bill. There are a lot of other things, as I look at the bill, that requires oversight by the Ag Department and by those who test. So, I'm very much in favor of putting this back in. I think we made a mistake by taking it off last year.